

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-14 and add new claims 15-17 as follows:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

15. (New) An anastomosis connector system comprising a fitting comprising:

a base adapted for attachment to a graft,

a leading segment extending from said base and adapted for introduction into a host vessel;

a rear segment extending from said base; and

a hinge zone associated with said base and comprising at least one torsion member,

wherein by means of said at least one torsion member said rear segment is torsionally deflectable about said hinge zone relative to said base such that said fitting can be advanced into a host vessel and wherein, upon returning to a substantially undeflected position, said rear segment prohibits retraction of said fitting from the host vessel;

wherein said fitting comprises a plurality of interconnected links having spaces therebetween and adapted to engage the inner surface of the host vessel wherein the area of contact between the interconnected links and the inner surface area of the host vessel is no greater than about 35% of the total area of the fitting upon forming an anastomosis.

16. (New) The system of claim 15 wherein at least said leading and rear segments are formed from said interconnected links.

17. (New) The system of claim 16 wherein said fitting further comprises at least one lateral portion positioned between said leading segment and said rear segment, and said at least one lateral portion is formed from said interconnected links.
